AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (cancelled).

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (cancelled).

18. (cancelled).

19. (cancelled).

20. (cancelled).

21. (cancelled).

22. (cancelled).

23. (cancelled).

24. (cancelled).

25. (new) A card holding device, comprising:

- at least one guide;
- a clamping unit comprising:
  - at least one first clamping element arranged to clamp a card which is to be held;
  - at least one first elastic element comprising a first and second region;
  - two mutually opposite flat faces arranged such that on one flat face, in a manner controlled by the at least one guide, when the clamping unit moves in relation to the at least one guide, the at least one first elastic element is guided indirectly or directly at the at least first region by means of the at least

one guide, and clamps the card indirectly or directly by means of the at least one second region,

- an electric motor drive arranged such that the inward movement of the card can be driven at least partly by means of the drive, and wherein
- at least one clamping element is rotatably mounted about a rotation axis, and the card, which is to be held, can be clamped in the manner of tongs by means of the clamping elements.

26. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the first elastic element is part of the first clamping element and is arranged to be guided with a first region by means of the at least one guide and, by interacting with the first clamping element, clamps the card by means of a second region.

27. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the clamping unit has at least one second clamping element, the second region of the elastic element is arranged to touch the first clamping element and, during the clamping process, presses against the card in such a way that the first clamping element and the second clamping element clamp a card, which is to be held, on the two opposite flat faces.

28. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the clamping unit is arranged to clamp the card in a manner controlled by the at least one guide when the clamping unit moves in an inward direction with respect to the card holding device.

29. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the elastic element is a leaf spring.

30. (new) The card holding device according to claim 29, wherein:

- one end of the leaf spring is rotatably mounted in a rotation axis,
- the first region, at which the leaf spring is guided by means of the at least one guide, is arranged at the opposite end, and
- the second region is arranged close to the rotation axis.

31. (new) The card holding device according to claim 30, wherein the leaf spring comprises, in the second region, a bend which faces the card and runs in a direction of the bending moment on the leaf spring.

32. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the at least one clamping element is arranged to be lowered onto the card, which is to be held, in a substantially rotatory manner, so as to clamp the card.

33. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the at least one clamping element is arranged to be lowered onto the card, which is to be held, in a substantially translatory manner, so as to clamp the card.

34. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the card holding device has two guides which are located at the side of a card holding shaft, the elastic element extends substantially over the width of the card holding shaft, the elastic element has at least two guide elements which are arranged at the side in the first region, and the elastic element is respectively guided by means of a respective guide element on the guides which are arranged at the side.

35. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the guide is formed such that the clamping force on the card initially increases when the card moves in the inward direction.

36. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the card can be completely drawn into the card holding device.

37. (new) The card holding device according to claim 36, wherein the card holding device comprises an insertion opening and a closure element and the insertion opening is arranged to be closed by means of the closure element.

38. (new) The card holding device according to claim 37, wherein the card holding device has at least one locking unit, and the closure element can be locked in a closed position by means of a locking unit.

39. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, further comprising a slip clutch arranged between the drive and the clamping unit.

40. (new) The card holding device according to claim 25, wherein the clamping unit is at least partly provided with friction linings in regions which touch and clamp the card.

41. (new) A method for holding a card in a card holding device, comprising the steps of:

- inserting the card through an insertion opening, during a first period of movement,
- pushing the clamping unit in a inward direction, as a first end position reaches a stop of a clamping unit, during a second period of movement, by means of the card and a guide arranged to press a second region of an elastic element which is guided indirectly or directly by means of the guide at a first region indirectly or directly against the card,
- sensing an end of the second period of movment with a sensor, and
- initiating activation of a drive, with the sensor, at the beginning of a third period of movement, the drive arranged to transport the clamping unit in an inward direction.

42. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein:

- during the first period the card is initially manually inserted into an insertion opening and registered by a sensor at a first end position, and
- at the beginning of a second period of movement the sensor initiates activation of a drive which transports the clamping unit in an inward direction while a guide presses a second region of an elastic element, which is guided indirectly or directly by means of the guide at a first region, indirectly or directly against the card.

43. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein:

- during the first period the card is initially manually inserted into an insertion opening and registered by a sensor at a first end position, a guide can be moved in an inward direction and the sensor initiates activation of a drive which moves the guide in the inward direction, and a clamping unit clamps the card by the guide pressing a second region of an elastic element, which is indirectly or directly guided at a first region by means of the guide, indirectly or directly against the card, and
- during a third period of movement the clamping unit transports the card in the inward direction.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein during a fourth period of movement the clamping action on the card is released and the card is finely positioned in relation to a contact set.

45. (new) The method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the card is pressed in the inward direction against a housing-end stop of the end position by means of a fine-positioning element after the clamping action on the input-end end face or on the input-end corners of the card is released.